

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:80

Claims 4-55, 69-70 and 72 were pending at the time of the Final Office Action.

Claims 4, 11, 16, 23, 28, 45, and 69 are currently amended.

Claims 4-55, 69-70 and 72 remain in this application.

1-3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A fiber-metal laminate comprising:

at least two ~~pre-treated~~ metallic layers, each metallic layer having an inorganic polymer sol coating formed thereon; and

at least one fiber layer disposed between the metallic layers adjacent to the inorganic polymer sol coatings. [[:]] wherein the fiber layer contains a thermosetting resin matrix and a plurality of galvanically non-reactive poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers.

5. (Original) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers include poly {2,6-diimida7o [4,5-b4',5'-e] pyridinylene-1,4(2,5-dihydroxy) phenylene} fibers.

6. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the at least two layers include an aluminum alloy.

7. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 6, wherein the aluminum alloy includes a heat treatable aluminum alloy.

8. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the at least two layers include a titanium alloy.

9. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the at least two layers include a stainless steel alloy.

10. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the resin matrix includes an epoxy resin.

11. (Currently Amended) The laminate of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 4, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute no more than 40 percent by weight of the laminate.

12. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim. 4, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute at least 10 percent and no more than 50 percent by volume of the laminate.

13. (Previously Presented) The laminate Claim 4, wherein at least 90 percent of the fibers are substantially aligned in one direction.

14. (Original) The laminate of Claim 13, wherein about 100 percent of the fibers are aligned in the substantially same direction.

15. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein at least 10 percent of the fibers are aligned at a first direction 45° from a second direction to which a majority of the fibers are aligned.

16. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ at least a portion of the fibers are aligned in a plurality of directions.

17. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the fibers include continuous fibers.

18. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, which contains at least 3 and no more than 15 metallic layers.

19. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4 wherein the at least one fiber layer includes between 3 and 15 plies of fibers.

20. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 4, wherein the at least two metallic layers each have a thickness of at least 0.004 inch and no more than 0.025 inch.

21. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the surfaces of the metallic layers are pre-treated by phosphoric acid anodizing.

22. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, wherein the surfaces of the metallic layers are pre-treated by coating with an interphase layer.

23. (Currently Amended) The laminate of Claim 22, wherein the interphase layer includes a sol-gel ~~set-gel~~ surface preparation.

24. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4 which additionally comprises a layer of an adhesive resin between the fiber layer and the metallic layers, wherein the adhesive resin is different from the resin matrix.

25. (Original) The laminate of Claim 24 wherein the adhesive includes an epoxy adhesive.

26. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 4, further comprising at least one core layer disposed between the at least two metallic layers.

27. (Original) The laminate of Claim 26, wherein the core layer includes a honeycomb core.

28. (Currently Amended) A fiber-metal laminate comprising:

at least two layers of pre-treated aluminum alloy, each aluminum alloy layer having an inorganic polymer sol coating formed thereon; and

at least one resin-fiber ply bonded between the aluminum alloy layers adjacent to the inorganic polymer sol coatings, the ply including a thermosetting resin matrix and a plurality of galvanically non-reactive poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers, a majority of the plurality of galvanically non-reactive poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers being aligned along a primary stress direction.

29. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers include poly {2,6-diimidazo [4,5-b4',5'-e] pyridinylene-1,4(2,5-dihydroxy) phenylene} fibers.

30. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the aluminum alloy includes a heat treatable aluminum alloy.

31. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the resin-fiber ply is bonded between the aluminum alloy layers with an adhesive resin different from the matrix resin.

32. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the resin matrix includes an epoxy resin

33. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the metallic layers constitute less than 40 percent by weight of the laminate.

34. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute between 10 percent and 50 percent by volume of the laminate.

35. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein at least 90 percent of the fibers are substantially aligned in one direction.

36. (Original) The laminate of Claim 35, wherein about 100 percent of the fibers are aligned in the substantially same direction.

37. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, having at least 3 and no greater than 15 metallic layers.

38. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the at least one fiber layer includes between 3 and 15 layers of aligned polymer fibers.

39. (Original) The laminate of claim 28, wherein the metallic layers each have thickness of at least 0.004inch 0.025 inch.

40. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the surfaces of the metallic layers are pre-treated by phosphoric acid anodizing.

41. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28 wherein, the surfaces of the metallic layers are pre-treated by coating with an interphase layer of resin.

42. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, wherein the surfaces of the metallic layers are pre-treated with a sol-gel surface preparation.

43. (Original) The laminate of Claim 28, further comprising at least one hollow core layer disposed between the at least two metallic layers.

44. (Original) The laminate of Claim 43, wherein the hollow core layer includes a honeycomb core.

45. (Currently Amended) A composite aircraft component comprising:
at least two aluminum alloy foil layers that are pre-treated each having a thickness in a range from 0.004 inches to 0.025 inches, each aluminum alloy foil layer having an inorganic polymer sol coating formed thereon; and

at least one polymeric composite layer bonded between the at least two foil layers, the composite layer including a thermosetting resin matrix and a plurality of galvanically non-reactive aligned poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers, the plurality of galvanically non-reactive poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers being aligned along a primary stress direction.

46. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein the poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers include poly {2,6-diimidazo [4,5-b'4',5'-e] pyridinylene-1,4(2,5-dihydroxy) phenylene} fibers.

47. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein the resin matrix includes an epoxy resin.

48. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute no more than 40 percent by weight of the laminate.

49. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute at least 10 percent and no greater than 50 percent by volume of the laminate.

50. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein greater than 90 percent of the fibers are substantially aligned in one direction.

51. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein about 100 percent of the fibers are substantially aligned in one direction.

52. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein at least 10 percent of the fibers are aligned in a first direction 45° to a second direction a majority of the remaining fibers are aligned.

53. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein the at least a portion of the fibers are aligned in a plurality of different directions.

54. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein at least two final layers include at least 3 and no greater than 15 foil layers.

55. (Original) The laminate of Claim 45, wherein the at least one polymeric composite layer includes at least three 3 and no more than 15 polymeric composite layers.

56. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a fiber-metal laminate, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of metallic layers;

aligning a plurality of polymer fibers having a modulus of elasticity of greater than 270 GPa into at least one fiber layer; and

sandwiching the at least one fiber layer between the plurality of metallic layers.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, further comprising bonding the at least one high modulus fiber layer to the plurality of metallic layers adjoining the high modulus fiber layer using an adhesive resin different from the matrix resin.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, further comprising pretreating the plurality of metallic layers.

59. (Withdrawn.) The method of Claim 58, wherein pretreating includes pretreating with a sol-gel coating.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein the poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers include poly {2,6-diimidazo [4,5-b4',5'-e] pyridinylene-1,4(2,5-1hydroxy) phenylene} fibers.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of metallic layers include an aluminum alloy.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim. 56, wherein the plurality of metallic layers include a titanium alloy.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of metallic layers include a stainless steel alloy.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein the resin matrix includes an epoxy resin.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute less than 40 percent by weight of the laminate.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein the at least two metallic layers constitute between 10 percent and 50 percent by volume of the laminate.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, further comprising forming a hollow core between the plurality of metallic foil layers.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 67, wherein forming a hollow core includes forming a honeycomb core.

69. (Currently amended) A fiber-metal laminate produced according to a method comprising:

providing a plurality of ~~pre-treated~~ metallic layers, each metallic layer having an inorganic polymer sol coating formed thereon;

aligning a plurality of galvanically non-reactive poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers having a modulus of elasticity of greater than 270 GPa into a thermosetting resin of at least one fiber layer, the plurality of galvanically non-reactive poly diimidazo pyridinylene fibers being aligned along a primary stress direction; and

sandwiching the at least one fiber layer between the plurality of metallic layers adjacent to the inorganic polymer sol coatings.

70. (Original) The laminate of Claim 69, produced according to the method further comprising bonding the at least one high modulus fiber layer to the plurality of metallic layers adjoining the high modulus fiber layer.

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The laminate of Claim 69, wherein pre-treating includes pre-treating with a sol-gel coating.